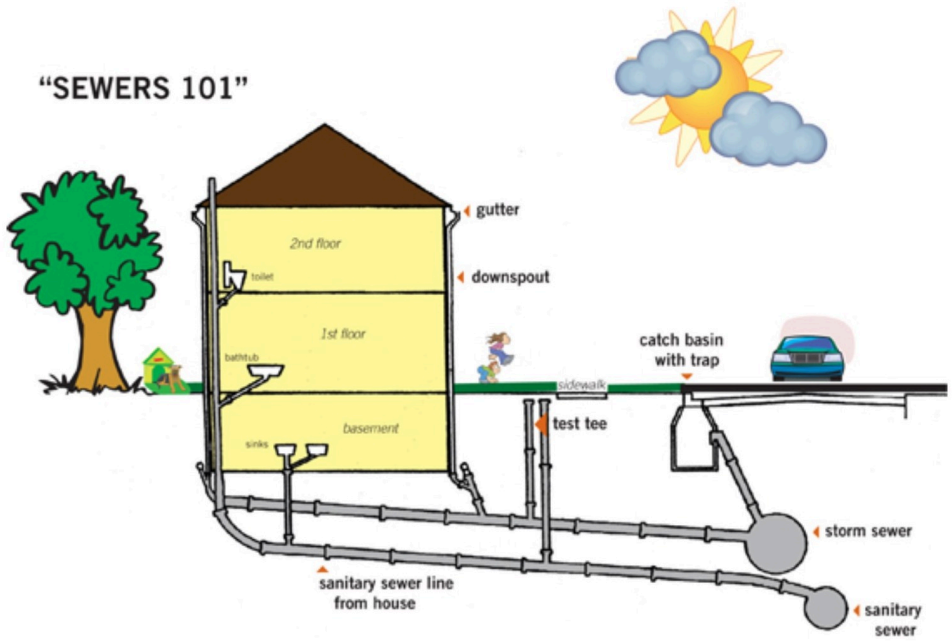
HOMEOWNER REPAIR GUIDE

BROKEN SEWER LINES

For do-it-yourself or contracted repairs

Decisions about sewer line replacement are often made in an emergency situation. Sewer problems often result from tree roots that intrude through joints in the underground pipe. Finding a source of water and nutrients, they continue to grow, until they eventually obstruct the sewer. When the problem becomes severe enough that snaking the lines or flushing them with a high-pressure water jet is not sufficient to clear the blockage, the traditional remedy has been a “dig down” (open cut trenching) with a backhoe or other large equipment. That process can leave significant surface damage to repair.



Sewers 101: the sanitary sewer line runs from the house, under the yard, to the main sewer in the street

TRENCHLESS ALTERNATIVES

Many people aren't aware that there are alternatives. Homeowners might want to check out two types of trenchless sewer line replacement: “pipe lining” and “pipe bursting.”

Pipe lining	Involves inserting a flexible tube coated with epoxy resin into the damaged pipe, inflating it, and allowing it to harden for several hours.
Pipe bursting	Involves fracturing the old pipe away from around a new jointless pipe being pulled through it.

Both methods can preserve landscaping, patios, decks, sidewalks, and driveways. Experts claim pipe lining and pipe bursting are equally durable.

COSTS AND PERMITS

Costs will vary, depending on things like the configuration of the sewer line, its condition, and how deep the pipes are buried. You should also check to see which methods are permitted where you live; some communities allow one method, but not another.

BE PROACTIVE

RUN A CAMERA THROUGH THE LINE

Some people are opting to be proactive. When they hire a professional to snake their sewer lines, they also arrange for the contractor to run a camera through the pipe. Knowing the condition of the sewer, they can plan for repair costs and explore alternatives before an emergency arises.

Home Repair Resource center

Home Repair Resource Center empowers homeowners to maintain their homes for sustainable and diverse communities.

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